

THE GATEWAY

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6.4% tuition hike proposed

Students' Union warns that differential tuition could boost student debt loads and limit accessibility

JHENIPER PABILANO
News Editor

If \$4000 in extra fees on top of law school tuition were in place a year ago, second-year law student Mike wouldn't have filled out the application forms to go.

"I've got \$25 000 in student loans right now. Last year, I was lucky enough to get a needs-based scholarship that allowed me to barely make ends meet," he said.

"Coming in and looking at \$6000 to \$8000 in tuition, I probably wouldn't apply. ... I wouldn't be able to afford the costs when you put books and living costs on top of that tuition total. There's no way."

But these same extra fees that could shut students like Mike out are an integral part of the proposed University tuition increase plans for next year. Also known as differential fees, extra costs will be applied to the law, business, medicine, and dentistry programs, in addition to a proposed 6.4 per cent increase for base tuition in all faculties.

"If we allow this as a campus community, we'll have a two-tiered education system where some faculties will only be accessible if you're fairly wealthy."

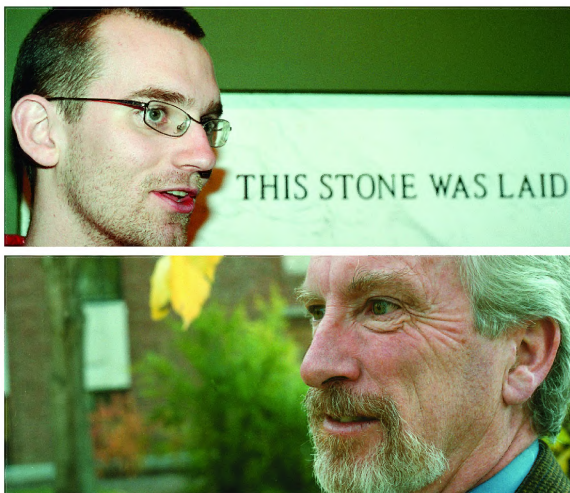
MIKE HUDERNA, SU PRESIDENT

And law student Mike isn't just another case study—he's Mike Huderna, the president of the Students' Union, whose firsthand experience with debt is making him fight for access as tuition shoots skyward.

"You want university to be a place where everybody who's academically qualified can come and excel, and that's not what they're doing," said Huderna.

"They're making a vision where it's academically elite and financially elite. ... If we allow this as a campus community, we'll have a two-tiered education system where some faculties will only be accessible if you're fairly wealthy."

PLEASE SEE HUDERNA • PAGE 2



TALKING TUITION SU President Mike Huderna (top) and University Provost Doug Owram discuss impending fee hikes.

U of A administration blames provincial underfunding, says raising tuition the only way to maintain high quality of education

CHRIS BOUTET
Associate News Editor

Citing a dire financial situation at the U of A and declining aid from the province, the University of Alberta administration is planning to approach the Board of Governors with a proposal for a 6.4 per cent increase to tuition, coupled with a differential fee model for the upcoming school year.

"Student tuition increases have been steady and relentless over the '90s," said Doug Owram, University Provost and Vice-President (Academic), "but what's really been happening is that students have been making up the drop-off in government funding to maintain the quality of their education."

"I think the most important thing for the University to do is ensure people get quality for their degree. That has to be our responsibility."

DOUG OWRAM, U OF A PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

"Without these increases, we will be in a truly disastrous situation," he added. "It's not popular, it's not desirable, but it's necessary."

The proposed hike, announced last week, will be applied across the board to general tuition rates, translating into an approximate \$250 increase per student. But under the proposed differential fee structure, students enrolling in the professional faculties—Law, Medicine and Dentistry, and Business—may find themselves paying up to \$2000 more, on top of regular tuition. The tuition for law, medicine, dentistry, and the Masters of Business Administration programs will double in two years.

Although annual tuition hikes have sadly become commonplace to U of A students, Owram concedes that he doesn't see any other way to combat plummeting government support and maintain the quality of education the University provides.

PLEASE SEE OWRAM • PAGE 2

THE PROPOSED TUITION HIKES

For the next academic year, the University administration is proposing to increase all tuition fees by 6.4 per cent. **Average fees for Arts and Science students will increase from \$4032 this year to \$4290.**

This year, the University has also proposed **differential program fees** for some faculties—which will mean an **extra fee** for these faculties on top of regular tuition fees.

Differential fees will be applied to the faculties of Law, Medicine and Dentistry (M&D), and Business (MBA & BComm). The additional fees will not apply to those currently enrolled in these programs, but will apply to those who enroll next year and after.

Differential tuition will be applied as follows: 20 per cent to the university, 20 per cent to student support, and 60 per cent to the faculty.

Estimated annual tuition and total cost of completing select degrees based on proposed tuition increases (for students beginning Fall 2003)

DEGREE	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005*	2005/2006*	2006/2007*
ARTS/SCIENCE					
Total Cost	\$4032	\$4290	\$4290	\$4290	\$4290
LAW					
Base Tuition	\$4300	\$4575	\$4575	\$4575	\$4575
Fee Diff	\$0	\$2000	\$4000	\$4000	\$4000
Total Cost	\$4300	\$6575	\$8575	\$8575	\$8575
MEDICINE					
Base Tuition	\$5674	\$6037	\$6037	\$6037	\$6037
Fee Diff	\$0	\$2000	\$4000	\$6000	\$6000
Total Cost	\$5674	\$8037	\$10037	\$12037	\$12037
B COMM					
Base Tuition	\$4032	\$4290	\$4290	\$4290	\$4290
Fee Diff	\$0	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700
Total Cost	\$4032	\$4990	\$4990	\$4990	\$4990
MBA					
Base Tuition	\$4491	\$4778	\$4778		
Fee Diff	\$0	\$2500	\$5000		
Total Cost	\$4491	\$7278	\$9778		

* Future increases to base tuition will affect this table

Source: Tuition Recommendation for the Academic Year 2003-2004—Budget Advisory Committee



8 Playing as tournament host, the unranked soccer Pandas surprised everyone but themselves by earning a CS-silver medal at Footie last weekend. UBC won the gold medal game 2-1 (OT).

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Outside

Thursday Cloudy, buy new school supplies: High 2, Low -5
Friday A mix of sun and cloud, forget your locker combination: High -1, Low -5
Saturday Mainly cloudy, mofifying: soon dash in gym class: High -4, Low -10
Sunday A mix of sun and cloud, slow dance with your arms out zombie style: High -4, Low -10
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

Minister of Advanced Education Bert Hohl came under fire for proposing a system of differential tuition fees for foreign students at the U of A, recommending they pay up to 300 per cent more than Canadian students beginning in the fall. Hohl claimed that the "public mood" was behind differential tuition, despite the fact that many public groups including the Board of Governors and the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party had spoken out against the proposition. When asked if the move would disadvantage students from poorer countries attempting to get a good education, Hohl replied, "Students should invest in their own education. You can't get anything else for nothing nowadays."

1973



11 In honour of our nation's sacrifice during the World Wars, we bring to you stories of U of A students and staff who gave their lives in defense of our freedom.

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and Chris East last but not least, Death, his Cadillac,
and poor little Lamphop.

OWRAM • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Government operating grants over the
past several years have not kept up
with the costs of education, explained
Owram, stating the average govern-
ment funding per student has dropped
from \$13 900 in 1981 to \$8500 today.
And in an increasingly competitive
Canada-wide market hungry for expe-
rienced professors and international
repute, the U of A cannot afford to
continue working within its current
budget.

"That deterioration of government
funding has, over the years, put more
and more strain on the University,"
said Owram. "We have a hundred
fewer [people in the faculty] than ten
years ago, we're teaching more stu-
dents than we did ten years ago, each
year class sizes get bigger and the pro-
grams get more restricted."

"When this year's crunch came, we
could have taken really big cuts out of
the faculties, but our fear was that if
we went too deeply, we'd really start to
lose staff who would go to work
elsewhere, we'd have to drop pro-
grams," he continued. "So it's kind of
a balance, I mean, how do you stop
a shortfall? Tuition is one part of
the answer, the unpopular parking

rate increase is another part of the
answer, and cuts to administration is
another."

And after years of unsuccessfully fol-
lowing the Alberta government for more
money, Owram said the University
isn't expecting the financial burden
being placed on students to be lifted
anytime soon.

**"We'll be putting more
programs in place to
support lower-income
students and ensure
that accessibility
continues."**

DOUG OWRAM, U OF A PROVOST AND
VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

"One thing that's important to
emphasize is that the students don't
pay, then the taxpayers pay. And you
have to understand that until we con-
vince people out there who do not
have a university degree that this is a
worthwhile investment, students are
going to end up paying more," he
said.

Differential fees may spread to other programs, says Hudema

HUDEMA • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The differential fees and tuition
increases will cause the Faculties of
Law, Medicine & Dentistry and the
School of Business's MBA program to
double their tuition in two years. But
Hudema is pointing to the lessons of
Ontario universities to show that dif-
ferential fees don't work.

Ontario universities started signifi-
cantly differentiating fees in many
programs four years ago, when the
province stopped regulating tuition
fees. Hudema said studies from UofT
University and the University of
Western Ontario have reported 40-50
per cent drops in low-income student
numbers, while CBC reports that medi-
cal students' debt is hitting the bank's
limits, carrying debt loads between
\$100 000 and \$130 000.

And professional associations includ-
ing the Canadian Bar Association and
the Canadian Medical Association have
formed their own action group on
tuition issues, the National Professional
Association Coalition on Tuition
(NPACT). They've pointed out that
high debt loads are reducing enrol-

ment in the lower-paying professional
areas like public interest or poverty
law, or rural medicine. Those seeking
higher salaries are going to the U.S.

"You're limiting students going into
the programs, limiting their choices
within the faculty, and when they
come out, you're trapping their choices.
You look at what choices that makes
for you—what jobs you can take, can
you put a down payment on a house,
when can you have kids, when can
you buy a car?" said Hudema.

**"What is the quality
of education for
somebody who can't
attend?"**

MIKE HUDEMA, SU PRESIDENT

Hudema worries that if allowed,
this first wave of differential fees is
only the beginning.

"It's not going to stop with these facul-
ties," said Hudema. "The University
only gets 20 per cent of the differ-

"It's not a simple question like health
care, something that everyone can
access; only 18 to 20 per cent of the
population gets to come to university,
and the other 80 per cent are going.
Well, why should I have to pay for that?"

Ultimately, concluded Owram, qual-
ity of education must be made a higher
priority than financial accessibility. "I
think the most important thing for the
University to do is ensure people get
quality for their degrees. That has to
be our responsibility," he said. "I'm
not saying accessibility isn't important,
and we'll be putting more programs

U OF A MONEY MATTERS

• Tuition has increased 309 per cent
since 1991. Compound inflation has
been 22 per cent.

• Student contributions to institutional
revenues in the form of tuition dollars
have doubled since 1991, from
twelve per cent to 24 per cent. Spending
on instruction and non-sponsored
research has dropped by 91 per cent in
the same time period.

• Provincial operating grants to Alberta
universities fell by 77 per cent between
1992/1993 and 1999/2000.

• The U of A has already instituted
budget cuts of \$14 million over three
years.

• The U of A has increased scholarship
and bursary funds to nearly \$47 million
per year from approximately \$7 per year
a decade ago.

• Alberta has the third highest univer-

ity in place to support lower-income stu-
dents and ensure that accessibility con-
tinues."

"Ideally, I would prefer a situation
where the government provided suf-
ficient funding that we didn't have to
increase tuition over the next while,"
he said. "There's been a real increase
in the 1990s, and it would be nice to
level it out for a while."

The tuition increase proposal was
put forth by the U of A's Budget
Advisory Committee. The recommen-
dations will be presented to the
Board of Governors for approval on
17 January, 2003.

graduate arts tuition in Canada (Stats
Can).

• Tuition at the U of A is 109 per cent
higher than the national average for
arts and science undergraduates.

• The average student debt in Alberta is
\$18 397.

• Utilities costs went up \$8 million in
the last year alone.

• Alberta students are eight out of ten
in funding among Canadian provinces.
In real terms, the U of A gets \$4000
per student less in its annual operating
grant than it did 20 years ago.

• Tuition increases over the last five
years have been:

1998/1999 — 892 per cent
1999/2000 — 670 per cent
2000/2001 — 1.20 per cent
2001/2002 — 3.20 per cent
2002/2003 — 3.65 per cent

ential fee to solve any budget woes.
They're not getting very much reve-
nue. So what they're going to need to
do to get more revenue is differenti-
ate larger numbers of students. That's
what we're very concerned about."

Amid the hikes and differentials,
Hudema has been trying to push
the University administration to cut
spending in travel, furniture, admini-
strative costs and professional fees,
where SU research has found them
outspending the top five peer univer-
sities in Canada. But he says their
research was unheard by the Funding
Solutions Task Force, the University
administrative group searching for
alternative sources of revenue. They've

promised to meet again with the SU,
said Hudema, but only after the tuition
decision is made in January.

Until then, Hudema and the SU will
be launching a campaign to protest the
fees. He's realistic about the impacts
their campaign might have, but he
believes they still have a chance to
change things.

"The thing that will give us a shot
is if the University and the province
ask the question of what is the quality
of education for somebody who can't
attend? How important is that com-
pared to preserving the quality of the
education for someone who can attend
just because they're more financially
secure?"

STREETERS

Last Thursday the University of Alberta announced their plan to introduce
differential tuition fees to the faculties of Medicine & Dentistry, Law, and Business.

Do you support differential tuition?



Darcy Smith
Phys Ed IV



Kim Trommelen
Pharmacy I



Ramona Casarani
Pharmacy I



Eric Meen
Medicine I

The way I look at it, those jobs do pay
more in the end, so it only makes sense
that those people should have to pay
more to get in. I think the cost of tuition
is grossly insane, but unfortunately no
matter how many students complain
about it or try to decrease it, we're not
going to be able to do anything. If we
strike and don't come to school, the profs
are still getting paid, we're already paid
our tuition, and we're losing in the long
run. There's nothing we can do about it.

I just don't see any benefit to differ-
ential tuition because we don't really
know where they're going to allocate
the money. They could put it anywhere
and not really make it useful to us. We
have the second highest student-to-faculty
ratio already and I really don't see that
going down. They're just taking my
money for no reason.

I think differential tuition is stupid. I don't
know why it's called differential, because
all it means is they're taking more of our
money. They say they're going to al-
locate it better and keep profs here, but
how do we know they're going to do
that? I don't think there's going to be an
end to it. It looks like it's just going to
keep going up and up and up.

It doesn't affect me that much because
of the grandfather clause. I think it's
pretty ridiculous. They're making it really
difficult for students who are already
having difficulties supporting tuition as
is. If you do that, it's just another road-
block, and it means a lot of people are
going to have to consider things like
taking part-time jobs, which is really dif-
ficult to do when you have that kind of
workload.

Compiled and photographed by Cosanna Preston and Katie Tweede

MLA holds student forum on campus

KRISTINE OWRAM
Associate News Editor

L liberal MLA Kevin Taft was at the U of A last Wednesday for a tête-à-tête with students about university-related issues such as rising tuition and expansion.

Taft is the MLA for the Edmonton Riverview riding, which includes the University of Alberta and surrounding areas. The purpose of Taft's dialogue was to air the official opposition's position on issues considered relevant to post-secondary students and to see where students stood on the same issues. The discussion focused primarily on the Universities Act, differential tuition, student loans, university expansion, and the Kyoto Accord.

Although there were less than 20 students present at the talk, the conversation lasted well over the allotted hour-long time slot.

Throughout the discussion, Taft returned to the notion of providing accessibility to post-secondary education for as many students as possible. He cited Ireland as a successful example.

"One of my colleagues met with some representatives from Ireland last summer," he said. "Ireland's economy is ripping hot right now, and he asked what the biggest cause of this is. The guy he was talking to answered that it was clear: starting in the 1970s, they made education free for everybody."

Over the decades, that has made Ireland incredibly prosperous.

Taft also brought up the Universities Act and the cap it currently provides for tuition fees. The Act will be up for review this February.

"I assume you all know that there's a section of the Universities Act that provides a cap for tuition fees," said Taft. "I'm concerned that one of the reasons the Act is being opened up is that someone out there wants to change that formula and I'm pretty sure it won't be in your favour."

Students voiced their concerns about the U of A's planned introduction of differential tuition and the possible



CONNECTING ON CAMPUS MLA Kevin Taft discussed student issues in S.U.B.

effects it will have on future students.

"I hear people all the time saying that they won't go into med school, for example, because they're worried that they won't be able to pay off their loans," said one student. "This has been an issue for so long and I don't see it as getting resolved. I think it's just getting worse and worse."

Students also mentioned worries about the current student loan system and its lack of accessibility to students who require financial aid. The popular notion that parents' income should be irrelevant to a student's ability to qualify for a loan was widely discussed and supported by Taft.

One student disagreed with this idea, however. "I can see how other people might say that that's just the way the tax payers take care of everyone," she said. "You can't just expect there to be this large sum of money given to everyone."

"That's the problem with rules," replied Taft. "In a marketplace you want to have a product that's pretty easy to evaluate or judge, and you just can't do that with education. You're not here test-driving a four-year BA, you're here doing it. The government needs to use its judgment as to what needs to be in a marketplace and what shouldn't."

Another topic of concern to most of the students present was the contentious issue of University expansion.

"I'd like to propose some amendments to the Universities Act limiting the University's expansion power," said Taft. "They are currently allowed to expropriate any homes on their land and they are exempt from the city's zoning bylaws. These are of serious concern to anyone who lives near campus, and something needs to be done about this. I would appreciate hearing students' views."

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Fee plan could be end of BC student unions

WALTER SHAWLEE
The Peak

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A proposal to slash student services funding in BC may spell the end of student unions in the province.

The proposal, suggested at a recent Liberal convention in Penticton, would see the province's student services like local student unions and national groups like the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Currently, universities collect and regulate the student fees and can make certain fees mandatory. Under the new plan, the Liberals may force them to make all fees opt-in.

Some critics have said student unions are not taking into account the diversity of all students. "This sentiment, and complaints to Advanced Education Minister Shirley Bond, brought about the creation of a task force, comprised of MLAs Harry Bloy and Karm Manihis, to consult students on the issue of mandatory student fees."

As the CFS and student unions in BC have opposed many of the current BC government's actions including tuition hikes, the groups said this move is a direct attack on students' ability to organize.

"By taking away our ability to organize, vis-a-vis membership fees, they really are trying to break the back of the student movement," said Simon

Fraser Student Society acting member services officer Brynn Bourke.

But in a letter to the Vancouver Province, Simon Fraser BC Young Liberals President Chris Steinbach praised the Liberal government for questioning the CFS and mandatory student fees, writing, "I hope they hear from the majority of students like me who say no to the propaganda of the CFS."

"By taking away our ability to organize, vis-a-vis membership fees, they really are trying to break the back of the student movement."

BRYNN BOURKE,
SIMON FRASER STUDENT SOCIETY

Though letters of similar sentiment were sent to the Province by other members of the BC Young Liberals, Chris Steinbach refused to comment on the issue, stating only that the club has yet to come to any sort of decision on the matter and has taken no official action on the matter.

Bourke expressed concern that the Liberal government's inspection of student fees would be "the start of a much bigger issue."

The majority of student-run clubs and organizations could very well be jeopardized due to a lack of funding. Student fees across the country provide funding for student clubs, subsidized photocopying, pubs, athletic facilities, recreation spaces and bursaries.

"All these services would be undermined if we lost our funding," says Simon Fraser Student Society President Carlos Garcia. "A lot of students don't see any value in the student's society. I don't see why that is."

Garcia said this move is meant to weaken opposition to the Liberal government.

"Collectively, we are stronger. One of the things the government wants to do is divide us," Garcia said.

In addition, with the lack of a student community, the legislation would deeply shortchange international students. International Student Commissioner for the CFS, Clement Apaak, said, "By not having funding to run student unions, all the jobs that are provided for international students—who are not permitted to work off campus—and a lot of student services are going to go away."

Apaak sees this issue as the enforcement of personal political agendas at the expense of the student body's freedom. "This is about survival. If we lose that, we lose everything."

modern BUDDHISM

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Lama Ole Nydahl

Photos leashed by centralized media

THIS PAST WEEKEND, several Gateways and I attended a Prairie Western Canadian University Press conference in Vancouver. Of all of the speakers we saw there, ranging from designers to interviewers, one of the most striking was a photojournalist from the Vancouver Sun who works for the Canadian Press wire service as well. He considers photojournalism to be a dirty business, but hey—somebody's got to do it.

Being a photographer for the wire means a number of things. While his name is stripped from the credits and given a generic wire service name, his pictures of fires, car accidents and riots go on being printed across the nation in a number of high-profile publications.

But it strikes me as beyond curious that he only photographs what "big" newspapers consider newsworthy, that being, as I've said, fires, car accidents, riots and what seemed like little else. This, I think, is a grave misuse of a powerful, powerful medium. A camera can do much more than that.

But even though the power of imagery is integral to photography, it can't get anywhere unless it has access to the public, where the true power lies. As media conglomerates control content, and reporters dictate visual copy that conglomerates demand, individualism is lost and the variety of published images decrease.

Pick up a newspaper and of think of all the stories that aren't there.

All the people you never see winning the pig wrestle, the houses burning only a quarter of the way down, and the kid bleeding on the floor in Bangladesh. Somewhere, someone else has made the decision that a hockey player's pay raise is more significant than Bradley being fired from Denny's.

How can we report on more of these moments? The only way to get closer to that goal would be with more publications, and a more decentralized media.

In the city of Edmonton, whom some would say is blessed with two major dailies, we have the Sun whose directors sway towards the sensational, and we have the *Journal* that sways in the middle.

And nationally, we have two major dailies as well. Canada, with its one-party rule and two papers would have the Athenians, the founders of the first democracy, jumping in their tombs, because it looks as though Canadians are ready and willing to be manipulated through editorial means as well as political. India alone has over 4400 dailies, while Canada's dailies could be counted on your hands and toes.

There is a popular saying that gets pushed around in the newspaper world: "If you don't like the news, go out and make some yourself." The flipside to that is, if you don't like the news, go out and report it yourself.

Only then will we learn how the world really is, as opposed to what others want us to see.

PATRICK FINLAY
Photo Editor

The inside skinny

WHEN RESEARCHING AN ARTICLE a few issues ago, we had in the news department ran into a weird snag. Trying to find a women's advocacy type group to comment on the merits of a swimsuit calendar, we couldn't find a single one on campus. Yes, we tried the Women's Studies department and didn't get anything to deadline. But the dearth of women's groups had struck an odd chord already.

I don't know what really hit me as strange—we don't have men's groups here, and really, it might be kind of silly to hang around just because we have ovaries in common. But I'm not inclined to believe that female rights are instituted perfectly in our U of A microcosm.

On that note, I think a little female unity on campus might be nice to perhaps pay attention to such things. That way you could let me know if there's something going on, girls.

JHONFER PABLANO
News Editor

LETTERS

More Paul Lu coverage required

Require more articles focusing on Paul Lu ("Supercomputer harnesses cross-Canada power," 7 November). Please assign a beat reporter to follow him around and report his every move.

RYAN WARDEN
Computing Science V

Campus Girls calendar's motivations questionable

Tall blonde, curvy brunette, fiery red head or however one describes attractive usually initially eschews any adjective associated with "educated." Intelligent, motivated or ambitious are usually forgotten out of the attractive equation.

So, all those poor good-looking girls who are burdened with the label "educated" can now bridge the gap between intelligent and sexy in the *Campus Girls of Edmonton* calendar ("Local group to make campus girl swimsuit calendar," 7 November). But one must really wonder if stripping down to less-than-skivvies is the best way to attack the aforementioned stereotypes.

The irony of this situation astounds me.

Granted, proceeds from the calendar benefit associations and charities, but the fact that the three men and the twelve women posing for the calendar will still make money selling their skin undermines the progressive intention.

It is not momentous that women who are educated are attractive, and to say this calendar's motivation is to popularize this idea is shit. These women are not in the calendar because of their high GPAs, but because of their cup size.

If these people are supporting this process of exploitation out of some strong moral conviction to contribute to society, wouldn't their efforts be more moral if they used their cultivated minds rather than smiling scantily clad from a gym locker?

J. LAIDE CLAY
Education III

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction often misunderstood

Whenever I ask students what they think about USRIs (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction), the usual response is that the University pays no attention to the results. But the reality is quite the opposite. Not only are these surveys taken seriously, in many cases they constitute the only data used to evaluate teaching, because the opinions of students are readily available, easily quantified (a five-point scale is used at the U of A) and probably correlate reasonably with teaching effectiveness.

A major reason for the disparity between the perception and the reality is, because only an average score is published for each question, and the larger the class, the less the influence of any individual. But as dissatisfaction mounts, it will be noticed, and pursued vigorously by departmental chairs. In any event,

written comments are much more valuable than the ratings, because only they can help an instructor improve performance.

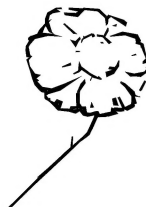
But what about a statement like, "Last year I panned Professor X, and he or she is back teaching the same course this year." No instructor can please everyone in all classes. I'm sure that every professor receives, at least, on occasion, one or two extremely negative reports from students. Not all the vitriolic comments come from looks—in many cases the writer is asking the chair to protect students in the future from what is perceived as grossly substandard instruction.

But for obvious reasons, it's only if such strong sentiments are shared by several students that a red flag will rise. I think most people would agree that this is necessary as long as USRs remain anonymous. In brief, long experience suggests that the USRI process is both robust for its purpose and fair to professors.

In promoting student feedback on teaching, we have a tendency to think only of exposing poor instructors. But the exercise is equally important for identifying those who are meritorious.

If USRs are anything to go by, we are doing very well here. The "average" prof at the U of A receives scores in the range of 3.9-4.3 out of 5 for most questions. To be "above average," one has to score consistently better than 4.3. Thus, on our nine-point scale, students are evaluating the "average" instructor basically as an eight. My point is that this overwhelmingly positive indicator is being generated by the very feedback that most students believe has no influence. The system basically confirms a high quality of teaching here overall, just as one would expect at a good university.

Student leaders played a major role in formulating the University's teaching evaluation policy. Now that the system is well entrenched, I challenge the Students' Union to keep the student body regularly informed about the importance of student participation in the evaluation of



RELATELY
R. BIESINGER

teaching. The USRI section on the SU's website currently does little more than provide a link to the USRI databases and to the relevant section of the General Faculties Council Policy Manual.

Finally, because student opinion has such a major influence on the evaluation of instructors, students should avoid getting burned out by the repetitive exercise. Your opinions on the quality of instruction count for lots. Criticize the bad, but don't forget to praise the good, and do it very seriously.

REUBEN KAUFMAN
Professor of Zoology
Department of Biological Sciences

Perspicacity nodule 'grated' by Gateway opinion piece

Holy shizzam! The article by Asia Szkudlarek ("English, by path of least resistance," 7 November) really grated my perspicacity nodule.

Finally, someone speaks of the University-enforced confinement to exceedingly irrelevant introductory English classes. I advocate increased course emphasis on writing and research skills versus the cornucopia of study of repetitive dead white-guy prattle.

Thanks, Asia, for the brain baf-fling bullshit skill suggestions, too. They'll really break in those wet-behind-the-ears English undergrad students!

KEVIN MAHER
Arts II

Jailed farmers received just desserts

Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) critic for the Canadian Alliance Party (David Anderson) wants the Federal government to change the legislation that led to ten Alberta farmers going to jail for exporting their wheat across the border into the USA.

First off, let's get the facts straight: they did not go to jail because they exported their wheat. Those Alberta farmers deliberately and knowingly violated the Canada Customs Act, then chose to unlawfully remove their vehicles that were legally seized by customs officials. They were found guilty in a court of law for violating the Customs Act and unlawfully removing seized vehicles. Fines were assessed, and they were given ample time to pay them, but chose not to, and that is why they went to jail. It was their choice to go to jail.

Furthermore, let us take into consideration that their initial objective in exporting their grain across the border was to hog for themselves a market that is morally meant to be shared by all prairie wheat producers.

One other misconception must be cleared up. The individual who donated a bushel of grain to the American 4th club was not charged for exporting grain across the border. He, too, was charged and found guilty of unlawfully removing his vehicle that was legally seized by customs officials.

These misguided individuals seem to be driven by greed and self-centeredness. They chose not to pay their fines, and would rather go to jail. They got what they wanted.

They made their bed, now let them lie in it.

GEORGE HICKIE
Waldron, Saskatchewan

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to managing@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

Remember: Remembrance Day is about more than freedom



RAYMOND
BRIESINGER

Flags waved, children cried, 21-gun salutes were fired. Bay Street, and nearly everyone else, stopped at 11am.

On 11 November, of course, we all paid respects for the dead of our conflicts, our wars, and in most speeches was a premise, a valid one: that day, Canada gathered to remember those who gave all, or gave some, for freedom. No doubt, a great many Canadians have lost their lives for the sake of that word and the state of being that it represents. But all too often, that word is misused, thrown around, and is used as an incentive to fight in times of conflict or to seal public debate in times of peace.

Freedom and liberty seem to be unquestionable in our society, in these selfish times held higher than duty and responsibility. Any of us would be a fool to argue against freedom—it's perhaps the only thing we're willing to die for, when it's threatened, and that's what a great number have done.

The Second World War was one of those moments that we truly did fight a just war for freedom in its truest sense, and liberty definitely hung in the balance between the fascist Axis, and the two-thirds not-fascist Allied powers. I say that because, well, Soviet Russia proved to be as bad for itself as Nazi Germany was. Stalin was a force for freedom in the eastern world, and the cities of people who met their end in his kind of prison camps would agree.

But still, Germany was a menace that killed millions of its own citizens, and inflicted the same fate on its neighbours, and perhaps even the globe. That needed to be defeated—we did, thankfully—and thanks to our sol-

diers, the world, and our lives, became a better place for it.

The Second World War was a just war. We owe so much, and tens of millions of us owe life itself, to those who fought it for us.

But note that Remembrance Day has its roots set three decades before that: in the Great War, and in that war, I'm convinced that freedom wasn't what hung in the balance. Then, the German state we fought against wasn't a totalitarian state—if any participant in that conflict deserved that title, again, it's Russia, an ally.

Ultimately, an unjust war caused a just one, and the men and women who lost their lives in the last one deserve our thanks, and those who fought and in the first deserve at least our understanding.

Germany in 1914 may have been far from a modern democracy, but compared to its European contemporaries, it wasn't worse: the United States, Canada, Germany, Austria, Britain and France were all on the cusp of, or just finished with, granting women's suffrage, and everywhere citizens' influence on the state was minuscule compared to the influence of businesses or governments themselves.

And governments' interests—not wanting to lose the equivalent of a nation-state mercy-fight—inflated the Balkan rivalry between a fledgling Serbia and the sagging Austria-Hungarian Empire into a 32 nation conflict that killed eight million people. No, it wasn't democratic freedom that any of the governments of the First World War fought for, but territory,

dominance and arrogance.

That said, I can still understand a farmer's son from Flin Flon, Manitoba joining the selfish British cause—the attraction to travel, fame, or just an escape from the reality of Canadian poverty is real, and when a conflict promises to last only a few months, why not? No European conflict, in the experience and memory of an adult in 1914, had gone longer than a few months. War had never been so brutal, lengthy, or costly.

And unforeseeably, the results of that unjust war would last much longer than its four years. A beaten Russia would turn upon itself in revolution, giving that Stalin mentioned above a fast-track to despotism, and America an enemy in the Cold War. In Africa, Asia (think North Korea, at the moment), and much of Eastern Europe, the fallout of those 50 years of containing inhumane socialism with equally insensitive American bullets remain.

Not only that, a number of promises would be made by the Allied victors to the Arabs and Jews of the Middle East, and these promises are still debated today and remain the crux of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and furthermore, the War on Terror.

Ultimately, the Great War's one-sided peace settlement at Versailles caused one of the defeated nations to resort to fascism in defence, and so, a monster named "Adolf Hitler" is one of the first historical figures Canadian students learn about.

Ultimately, an unjust war caused a just one, and the men and women who lost their lives in the last one deserve our thanks, and those who fought in the first deserve at least our understanding.

And what should we do, besides deliver memory, thanks, and understanding? We must never be seduced, or fooled, into supporting an unjust war again. If another one is fought, the results will affect not only our limbs and selves, but those living in centuries and continents far away.

Electronic spam has re-focused my life



TYSON
DURST

On an ideal day, I wake up to find myself refreshed by precious sleep, and I look out the window at the breathtaking visage of snow-covered winter while conducting a quick scratch of what I call "morning balls." Yes, life is good. I then fire up the ol' computer, curious to check my e-mail. And then, my day descends straight into a gong show hell as I find that the spam monster has struck again.

Take the penis enlargement mail, for example.

Now, I've always been pretty comfortable with the size of my unit. It may not be hanging-down-to-my-knees, Ned Flanders-size (ask a Simpsons aficionado if that went over your head), but if I chose to pursue a career as a pornstar, I think I could hold my own. But with an avalanche of spam telling me why a 24-inch penis is the standard women are now measuring me by, I can't help but wonder: should I be getting rid of these messages so quickly?

While my male ego starts to second

guess whether my manhood needs an upgrade, my brain is further deluged with offers that seem pretty darn good.

I sure could use better credit and zero debt. Balding cure? Oh my god, I am going bald! Do I need a vacation? Do I ever! Better mortgages? Well, I still live with my parents but it sure can't hurt to start thinking about buying a house, with my mega-awesome Arts degree in the works, getting me all the jobs.

Thank god somebody is looking out for my future and well-being, how the hell did I let things spiral out of control like this?

It'll be like: "Major in Comparative Literature, you say? Move over, Mr CEO Rancypants, Mr Durst is taking over the hotseat. I think he knows a little bit more about international business than you do."

At this point, I hit the wall in cyberspace-induced stress. I've got my dong out and fumbling with one hand on the measuring tape to get an accurate reading so I can properly assess the

possible cost of dong enhancement, while with the other hand, I'm leafing through credit card statements and trying to do some quick math in my head to figure out the best credit plan for me. If it weren't for these fine spammers, I would be completely lost and unorganized.

Thank god somebody is looking out for my future and well-being. How the hell did I let things spiral out of control like this? Now, the outlook is not that bleak and chaotic.

On the plus side, it seems that women I've never met before are interested in meeting me. They even refer to me by my first name, "tydurst1." That's really a nice human touch and it makes me feel better knowing that the Internet has brought me closer to finding a special someone. If I had known there were so many attractive, horny women who had their sights set on me all this time, I would have bought a home computer much sooner than this past January.

While I find my e-mail quite useful as a tool in communications, it would seem that it is not always "hot" as Bill Gates might have us believe. Indeed, I've become quite familiar with the delete button, but sometimes, the sheer volume of spam can have a cumulative effect in overloading the senses.

And maybe, just maybe, that's a good thing, after all.

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Health care not as simple as it seems

'Private' versus 'public' debate conceals shades of grey



ARI
HAGGIS

LargeCorp to make a profit. Patients' pockets are going to be sucked dry the moment they step in the door, and when you run out of money, that's that. They have a private health care system; we have public health care.

There are plenty of problems with the picture I just painted. Ninety-five per cent of Canadian hospitals are privately owned. In our public system, three out of every ten dollars spent on health care don't come from the government.

Almost all Canadian hospitals are private, but they are also non-profit, owned by non-profit charities and organizations. The Canadian Medical Association Journal confirms this.

In the American private system, four and a half of every ten dollars spent comes from the US government. Slightly over ten per cent of American hospitals are run for a profit—this is a smaller percentage than in Germany, a nation run by a leftist coalition of socialists and environmentalists.

Believe it or not, all of the last paragraph is true. Mind you, I did leave out a few asterisks.

Almost all Canadian hospitals are private, but they are also non-profit, owned by non-profit charities and organizations. The Canadian Medical Association Journal confirms this. Most US hospitals are run the same way. Both countries love private hospitals, but in Canada, the government pays 100 per cent of doctor and hospital costs, with hospitals and doctors billing the provincial government insurance plan.

In George Dubya's America, the government pays a tonne of subsidies to run Medicare (for senior citizens) and Medicaid (for the poor). Qualifying for either of these is not easy, and once you're in, there are plenty of user fees and "means tests." The rest are stuck with private insurance plans—a gougefest.

All of this sounds vague and confusing, but there's still much more. We still haven't talked about the three in ten dollars that is private money in Canadian health care: glasses, prescriptions, and those private clinics that are springing up like gophers.

What about doctors? In our country, they aren't government employees and don't get paid a flat salary, but instead invoice the provinces using billing codes, of which there are over 200 in Alberta. Are they considered private or public health care?

If you want a pure, shiny, unblemished public or private health care system, you won't find it here. Or anywhere else. The bowling ball is just too big to be a perfect sphere.

Doctor's office lacks puppies, rainbows



CORA
CUNNINGHAM

Finally the moment arrives and my name is called, my blood pressure rises and my sweat glands start producing enough sweat to lubricate my entire body, twice.

First I get weighed, and the nurse nicely suggests that I'm too skinny and malnourished. If she only knew.

I'm then handed a cup and directed to pee, this is a difficult task as the beaker holds .001 micromillilitres. So I just put a drop in the cup. It gets sent back because apparently my sample is inadequate. Now I can't pee, as my body has frozen up. And when I finally do relax, I overflow the stupid thing.

I lay down and am probed, pried and poked, all because I have a set of ovaries. At that moment, I officially decide to sell my uterus on eBay.

and I want to puke.

The doctor finally does arrive and the exam begins, I lay down and am probed, pried and poked, all because I have a set of ovaries. At that moment, I officially decide to sell my uterus on eBay.

So, I try hard to remember the millions of questions I rehearsed, but for some reason I find it difficult to talk to someone who's talking into my pelvic cavity. Besides, the last thing I want to do is distract them from probing; it's uncomfortable enough when they're doing it right.

For me it's not the speculum (for you guys, think metal crowbar, but worse) that's the most awful; it's when the doctor check your ovaries. They kindly ask, "Is this painful or tender?" and I'd love to reply but unfortunately I've already suffered an aneurysm.

The experience is so personal. The doc constantly reassures me throughout that it won't hurt, and this will be quick. Lies, lies, lies. The ten-minute exam in actuality lasts for an entire eternity, and it hurts both my uterus and ego.

On the way to the nurse hands me a paper sending me to go get my blood work done, and suggests I take opportunity of the free mammogram clinic downstairs.

I smile.
Only 363 more days till I do this again. Joy.

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We mustn't take our standard of living for granted



VIVEK
SHARMA

I write this article on a 17-inch monitor on a high-end computer system with a cable modem, zip drive and optical mouse, seated in a well furnished, brightly lit room at a comfortable temperature. The lights never flicker, the power never goes out. The province I live in is the most consistently ranked in the country, and it is consistently ranked one of the best to live in.

There is no one to censor the ideas I may express, to block my access to sources of media that allow me to express that view. I can explain the reasons for which I think my political representatives are inept, and my rights to pursue solutions to issues are respected.

Whenever the need may strike, I may walk my lazy ass over to vending machines or businesses across campus and select from an array of luxuries all competing for my business. Were I health conscious, I could buy organic fresh fruit, nutritional supplements and visit a nutritionist, psychologist, peer counsellor or physician regarding my needs, once again all within walking distance.

Contrast this with countries with absurd headlines or just not enough food at all. Here, the folks at Edo are practically begging me to double the damn beef.

damm beef. Compared with the problem-filled lives that others face in this city, country and world, our lives are so sweet it hurts.

I understand we are acquainted with these facts, but I doubt we fully appreciate them, much less make full use of them. For those of you who have travelled outside of Canada's borders or even our mini-Texas state, you probably have a pretty good idea of what I'm referring to: our ridiculously high quality of life compared to other countries, and even provinces. Try finding the same economic opportunities you have here in Newfoundland, PEI or Manitoba.

Contrast this with countries with absurd headlines or just not enough food at all. Here, the folks at Edo are practically begging me to double the damn beef.

Armed with cutting-edge technology and blessed with access to a mosaic of cultures, students at the U of A are uniquely qualified to participate as the first generation of truly global citizens, in tune with globalization and the global information culture.

But unfortunately, to those given much, much is expected in return. It's becoming apparent that we, inevitably, will play a key role in the issues defining this era, and that some around the

world are growing increasingly impatient with our apathy and ignorance of these issues. The flurry of political flak suffered by Jean Chrétien this fall after he commented on the world's increasing polarization of wealth is proof enough of this statement.

I want to be clear that I am not recommending running out to join an organization; I understand that students today are incredibly busy and stressed, and that education is our primary responsibility here at university.

But, make it part of your education. Check out a lecture or explore an independent media source. Regardless of what you're studying, there are always links to perennial issues that plague us all. Simply being aware of and discussing issues can create subtle changes in your own behaviour and those you interact with that, over time, can go a long, long way.

But none of that can happen if we continue to draw lines between what matters to ourselves and what matters to everyone else. To insist that you don't need to know about an issue is to waive your right to complain about it. The consciousness this discussion creates ferments over weeks, months, and years into profound shifts of culture to which politicians, businesses and artists have no choice but to respond to.

To those who would like to see progress but are frustrated with static governments and entrenched inequalities, this wide base of consciousness is absolutely necessary for anything further to be built in the future.

On campus I see flickers here and there. Fan the flames.

'Shackles of mediocrity' getting tedious



JOSH
KENNER

Man, am I ever regular.

Regular like the gas you cheap ass buys at the pump when its time to fill up. Regular like your pop at McDonald's when you don't super-size. And regular like your Granpappy after three bowls of Raisin Bran and a colonic. Yes, like everyone else in the entire damn world, I'm a white suburban male, aged 18-45, who likes hockey and loves German pornography. Why, world, wouldn't you release me from these shackles of mediocrity?

Don't get me wrong here—it isn't as if I have a self-defeating complex where I think I'm a lazy-eyed moron whose way of coping with the rigours of life is to cry myself to sleep while listening to Herbie's sonic masterpiece *Right Type of Mood*.

I mean, I was smart enough to crack the tough admissions of a certain public university, and I have enough wherewithal to crank out a semi-weekly literary hunk of diarrhea for campus to ingest.

It's just that I don't rule at anything. Like the majority of souls at this university, the powers that be haven't dealt me a full house, although I have received a pretty solid pair of fours. It's just that I wouldn't mind adding three aces to the mix, or even a couple threes. I lack a skill that would make people stare at me in awe, and linger around me hoping to catch but one sweet breath of the smell of glory.

Basically, what I want to be is "The

Guy Who's Good at Football" or "The Guy with Massive Delt." What I am is: "The Guy with the Ridiculous Hair" or "The Guy Who Smells like a Jockstrap Full of Cottage Cheese and Rancid Hamburger." Not exactly stuff you'd put on a plaque and let granny see, but having said that, you won't catch this guy getting a hair cut or showering unless I find a suitable title to replace those two.

I came to this realization the other day after running some laps in the Butterdome right in the middle of a track practice. (Note to track coaches: cut down on goofy assholes like me running on your track during practice by putting signs up saying "Track Practice—No Goofy Assholes.") All around me were people running hurdles, pole vaulting, and even doing semi-obscure stuff like shoe-pulling.

And I thought to myself, not for the first (and probably not for the last)

time, "Man, I wish I could pole vault. Or something."

I don't need to be a robotstudent, Blair St Martin style. I'm not greedy. I just want a niche, be it hockey or skeet shooting, or even Chinese checkers—it'd be cool to say something like, "Yeah, I guess I was pretty happy with my finish at the Nationals last year; I guess third isn't bad, especially since I played that Wilson clown from Western in the semis." Following up with, "Man, can that guy Chinese check!" would probably be rad, too.

To dominate at something as obscure as Chinese checkers the way Gary Coleman dominates at being short would certainly be nice. But, unfortunately, I'm knocking on 21's dusty, rotten door and have pretty much settled into the mind-numbing but comfortable reaches of normality.

At least I've got lots of company. It's lonely at the top, isn't it St Martin! Ha!

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Ways to really piss off David Suzuki

- 1 Tell him you got sick of mowing your yard, so now you just pour bleach in the lawn sprinkler.
- 2 Compost old air conditioners.
- 3 Support clear-cutting for the reason that it helps flush wildlife into the open, which is a big plus when you're poaching.
- 4 Make your own genetically-modified food by dumping radioactive waste in your garden.
- 5 Teach a dog how to smoke.
- 6 Ask him why he can't read your mind if he's such a respected "environ-mentalist."
- 7 Make him some custom Christmas tree ornaments using hooks, glitter, and bunch of baby bald eagle heads.
- 8 Let him know you're pretty sure that if certain species really wanted to be protected, then said species would wear helmets and bulletproof vests.
- 9 Invent something called "The Kleenoto Accord."
- 10 Modify your Suzuki SUV to run on coal.

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SPORTS

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HOME GAMES

Basketball - Main Gym

Friday, 15 Nov Pandas vs Calgary, 6:30pm
Bears vs Calgary, 8:15pm
Saturday, 16 Nov Pandas vs Calgary, 6:30pm
Bears vs Calgary, 8:15pm

ATHLETIC NOTES

Cross-Country

On 9 November in London, Ontario, the men's and women's cross-country teams raced to respective third and ninth finishes overall.

CIS championship - individual results for Alberta

Bears took top three (overall finish in brackets)

(10)	Robbie Nissen	32:23
(16)	Dallas Raudebaugh	33:13
(26)	Chad Kozak	33:39

Pandas skied top three (overall finish in brackets)

(28)	Heidi Nusse	19:14
(44)	Amy Golumbia	19:32
(47)	Michele Carle	19:33

Basketball

The no-win Pandas (0-2) host the no-loss Dinosaurs (2-0) for two matches in the Main Gym this Friday and Saturday. No particular players stood out in Alberta's losses to UBC in Vancouver last weekend.

The Bears (1-1) had a couple of standouts in Vancouver for their season openers: Phil Scherer got 28 points in their game on Saturday, while Phil Sudol scored 24 points in both matchups.



FILE PHOTO: KATE WADE

STRENGTH AT THE PERIMETER, INEXPERIENCE AT THE POST is the line on this year's Pandas basketball team. Without a national banner since 1999, the Pandas'll need their roster to mesh like a zipper for a title shot this season.

Hockey

Bob Daum's top-ranked Bears (8-1-1) are pushing a five-game winning tear into this weekend at Saskatoon to take on the Huskies. Kevin Marsh, with seven goals and seven assists, is second in Canada West scoring with 14 points.

Howie Draper's top-ranked Pandas (6-0-0) carry their two-year-plus conference unbeaten streak into Regina this weekend for a pair of contests against the Cougars. Danielle Bourgoin is on top of Canada West scoring with 15 points (seven goals and eight assists).

Volleyball

Both the Bears (6-0) and Pandas (5-1) are on the road for a pair against the Dinosaurs in Calgary. Why are the basketballers the only ones at home this weekend?

Tennis

The Bears and Pandas were both victors for their own sex at the Western Collegiate Tennis Championship in Victoria 8-10 November. Both teams qualified for the National Collegiate Final in Ontario, which will take place in February or March, according to tennis coach Russ Shuchinski.



SHAWN SENOW

LEFT TO RIGHT: PITY, DEFIANCE, ACCEPTANCE, REGRET The Pandas finished second in the CIS, after losing 2-1 (OT) to UBC in the gold medal match.

Unranked soccer Pandas snag CIS silver

BRYAN LEE
Sports Writer

R-E-S-P-E-C-T: that's what a CIS silver medal means to the Pandas soccer team.

Many presumed the defending national champions wouldn't be a factor this season, after losing several key starters from last season's undefeated run.

A 6-5-3 regular season record didn't intimidate teams at this weekend's national championship, though. The Pandas earned a berth because they hosted the event, facing five teams ranked in the top ten nationally. The five combined for a mere three losses over the season.

Second-ranked Laval was the first to feel the wrath of the respect-seeking Pandas. Even though the Rouge et Or scored early, most of the play was in Laval's half of the snow-covered turf. It wasn't long until second-team All-Canadian Aisha Alfa scored to give the Pandas momentum. Fan interest peaked like an earthquake from the press box after the goal.

"We weren't worried at all about falling behind early. I don't think it even phased us," striker Cheryl Cormack commented on the team's confidence level.

In the second half, Cormack knocked home a mishandled ball by veteran goalkeeper Mélanie Blais to propel the team to a 2-1 victory. Many Laval players were noticeably dejected after the game, though they would eventually capture the bronze medal in overtime against Western.

With the win, the Pandas only needed a tie against Queen's to make it to Sunday's final. Despite Queen's playing on a day's rest, Alberta was uncontested in the 4-0 blowout over the Golden Gaels.

"There's a lot of pressure, especially being defending national champions. We were expecting to be in the final," striker Alix Strap said, arguing that the Pandas had the most to prove. Strap scored the winning goal to sink Queen's.

Weather was also an advantage for the Pandas, as they prepared all week in the frosty conditions of Fosse Field. Many players wore gloves to keep their hands warm. Midfielder Karli Wiebe kept her hands tucked in her sleeves while goalkeeper Laurie Reid sported a toque.

It was -6°C during the gold medal match against top-ranked UBC. Despite Alberta's initial pressure,

the Thunderbirds benefited from a toss-in at the 24th minute. The Pandas stormed right back four minutes later, though, as Cormack rang one off the crossbar and Alfa headed in the rebound.

Although the Pandas got an ace performance from Reid, and were able to neutralize Canada West MVP Kristine Jack, they didn't generate many chances in the second half. UBC's seven corner kicks allowed the T-birds to control the game's tempo. Three minutes into overtime, UBC finally got first touch on a corner kick to win the championship 2-1.

"We gave it all we had and didn't leave anything out on the field," head coach Kelly Vandergriff summarized. "I think we were a little tired. We didn't quite have enough energy to get that final goal."

For their efforts, defenders Selena Debki and Christina Kahlna, as well as Wiebe and Alfa,

were named to the tournament all-star team.

NEXT SEASON

Alfa, Cormack, Debki, Dena Raimundo, and Kristie Tokunaga will be lost to graduation by next season, so the Pandas will continue to need their young talent to step up.

Debki had a particularly inspiring effort in the gold-medal match. When she suffered a second-half injury, she had her foot taped right on the field, rather than on the sidelines. These are the types of performances that will motivate next season's squad.

"With us hosting the championships, it taught our young players that if you can get there, you have a good shot at it," Vandergriff reflected. "Our toughest test is making it through Canada West, so now they realize that every game during conference play is important."



SHAWN SENOW

Aisha Alfa (right of UBC, 17) and the Pandas couldn't sandwich the Thunderbirds to silence.

Fighting isn't hockey

JOEL
CHURYRamblings from
Moose Lodge

Houston, you have a problem.

What were you thinking? Thursday night, up until this past weekend, was slated to be "Guaranteed Fight Night" for the Houston Aeros of the American Hockey League. Combating the slow draw of Thursday night hockey fans in Houston, the team's president and general manager, Dave Barr, figured that he would give the fans what they really wanted.

If a five-minute major for fighting wasn't called, then the fans would receive a free ticket to a later game.

The idea was to give the fans what they wanted: a hockey fight.

Now fighting might be a staple of the game, but this promotion is far from justifying the employment of professional games. It's sad that this bush-league move almost happened in the AHL, the second-best professional league in North America.

What, after all, is the difference between guaranteeing a fight and putting a bounty on a player's head? Luckily the league put the kibosh on the Aeros' plan and saved their opponent from a "guaranteed" beating.

In Mississauga, Ontario last week, a major debate roared over a father suing another for issuing a bounty on his son's head. The son of the plaintiff allegedly had it put on his head by a "win at all

costs" type-coach after a previous game. The father claims that his son is now afraid to suit-up in the dressing room.

What state are we in as sports fans when violence is the answer to the game? Be it low attendance, or winning a novice hockey game, fighting is not what hockey is built on. Sure, I like hockey fisticuffs as much as the next person, but not to the point that needs scripting. If I want scripted fighting I'd watch the WWE, where I at least know the players aren't intentionally injuring one another.

Keeping the public entertained can be a tough task. We've all seen lame promotional tools, but at least bubblehead dolls are tidier than encouraged melees. What is it about hockey that isn't entertaining enough on its own? This is the fastest team sport in the world, and yet it needs to be Biggie Sized?

I'm bothered by the fact people would get satisfaction from a fight that they were promised. Promoting the game to gun-kovri, death penalty supporters' Texans should require a little more thought than staged goonery.

This isn't a movie; the Aeros aren't the Charleston Chiefs. These are real people with families who are being turned into a circus act. Fights do happen, and a large number of games do include five-minute penalties for fighting, but they happen naturally on the ice. The thought of intentionally turning the rink into a boxing ring is something that would make Wayne Gretzky roll in his grave. Uh, strike that last statement.

There are a lot of fans who love to see old-time hockey. My favourite type of player is one who can get Gordie Howe hat-tricks that include a goal, an assist and a penalty.

But the last thing I want to see when I go to the fights is a hockey game breaking out.

the rules.

Sure it might lend an advantage, but that doesn't make it wrong.

Those ruling on the case seem to have forgotten that Beaumont was hardly a world-beater this year, with or without their headsets. Granted, they did win several games with the communication system, but they also got waxed 40-7 in another game and were the last team to qualify for the playoffs.

The whole basis of the appeal board's decision appears to be a clause in the rule book stating something about rules being in the spirit of "fair play" and other such nonsense.

What is "fair play" anyway? Moreover, what constitutes an "unfair advantage"? Having better cleats? A better practice field? Better cheerleaders?

It's not as if other teams were at much of a disadvantage. Coaches can simply send in a player with a substitute. No big deal.

The victorious parties in this case hailed the decision as a triumph of fair play and a lesson to their players. But what kind of lesson did they really teach these guys?

This ruling was simply not fair to an innovative Beaumont team. If the coaches of the losing teams really wanted to teach their squads a lesson, they should have accepted defeat with grace and dignity. Instead, Beaumont's football season is over, and for what? A little innovation. Nothing else.

MATTHEW
BLACKSports
Commentary

First off, I'll state that my interest in high-school football is virtually nil.

Maybe it's because my high school never had a team and I'm still bitter, but what I read this week in the paper regarding the Beaumont football team struck a nerve.

It seems that Beaumont was disqualified from entering the playoffs for using a coach-to-quarterback communication system. This is where the coach radios the plays directly to the quarterback via a transmitter on the sideline and a speaker in the QB's helmet. Virtually every professional team uses this system and has done so for many years.

The problems for Beaumont began when two of the teams they beat while using the headset appealed their games' outcome. This appeal was won on the grounds that the coach-to-quarterback communication system gave the Beaumont team an unfair advantage.

The maddening thing about this is that nowhere in the rules of Edmonton high-school football does it mention that using such a system is against



MARCUS BENCA

BISCUIT IN THE BASKET The Dinos scored here, but lost to the Bears 4-2 at the Drake last Saturday.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: The Cold Hard Facts

From July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002
103 students faced charges of plagiarism
48 students were suspended or expelled.

From July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002
36 students faced charges of cheating
25 students were suspended or expelled.

•Don't think the worst thing that can happen to you if you plagiarize or cheat is a 0 on the assignment or exam!

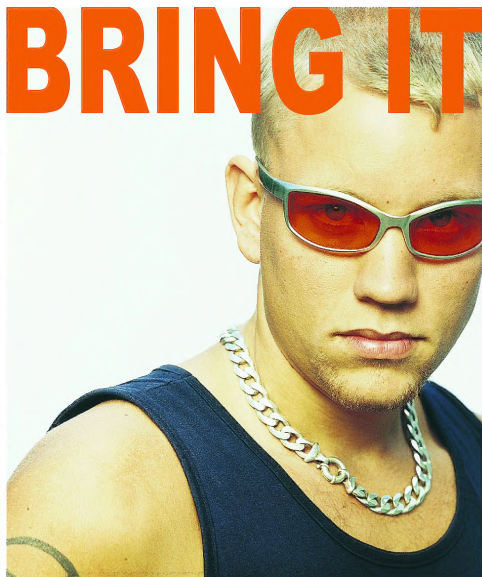
•You will likely receive a 1F (1 indicates Inappropriate Academic Behaviour) in the course and a suspension. You may even be expelled!

•A 1F stays on your transcript for two years and then reverts to a 1F. Suspensions remain on your transcript for three years from the date the suspension ends. Expulsion is permanent.

•The Code of Student Behaviour can be found at:
<http://www.ualberta.ca/~uniscer/appeals.htm>

•For further information or assistance you can contact the Student OmbudService at 492-4689 or log on to:
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/ombuds>.

Provided by the GFC Campus Law Review Committee



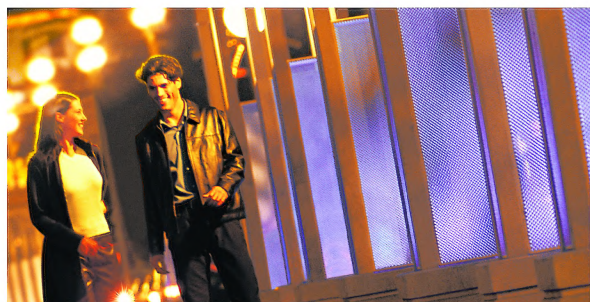
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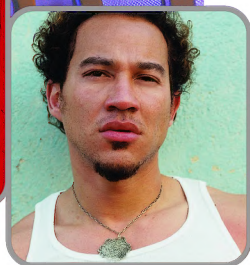


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TO THE BEAT OF



du Maurier



“We planned to
shake the world
together, being
young and very
wise...”

“On a summer day you took the road we never spoke of.”

Within the university community, the metaphorical road of the poem is indeed one that has not been spoken of for quite some time. Not many know of the plaque in the Old Arts building that bears the names of 80 students and faculty from the University of Alberta who chose to join in the cause of the Great War, only to never return.

In a community as small as the University was in those early years, each death was a significant loss. The U of A was a scant six years old when war was declared and it was conceivable, even probable, to know every student and staff member on campus. Of the men whose brief biographies appear here, most were the leading lights of the University. They were the executive of the clubs, members of sports teams, instructors, and “firsts.”

Around Remembrance Day, it's common to see many retrospectives and commentary denouncing the conflicts of the past; this concept is all old hat. Certainly the Great War was an immense tragedy, and the loss of the up-and-coming leaders of Alberta cannot be measured. Rather than going on at length on the loss, today we re-introduce the university community to some of its now long-dead members. We cannot, after all, remember people we never knew.



DANIEL ROBERTSON KNOX came to the University as a mature student, after previously pursuing a call to the ministry. It seems appropriate that he came to study, and his life experience served

him well. Among the too-many obituaries printed in the Gateway in the war years, Daniel Knox's is one of the most touching endorsements of his character and effect on the University.

"His uppermost motive was the Scot's passion for a university education. And it was not long before his keen mind, alert manner, and striking gift of convincing and incisive speech made a deep impression not only in the College, but also in the larger university circle where he took rank as a speaker and debater of unusual strength.

"Had he been spared to us, he

would have gone far. He had a rich fund of knowledge quite apart from the facts required for the examination day; his spirit rose with enthusiasm to greet high ideals of citizenship; one felt in conversation with him, and the feeling has been deepened by his letters from the front: 'how much alive this man is! How intensely he thinks and lives!' It seemed to me that he was one of the elect who would give the church and country the right lead in the difficult days ahead. But that dream has passed."

On 21 August, 1917, at the age of 31, he was killed in action. He has no known grave.



SAMUEL FERGUSON made the move to Alberta from Nova Scotia seemingly with no intention to study at the U of A, as it took him three years to register. However, when he did get around to becoming a student, he was a welcome addition. He was member of the Rifle Association, Secretary of the Dramatic Society, and President of the Literary Society.



Upon graduation with a BA in 1915, Fergie (as he was known to his classmates) decided upon a legal profession. He was articling with the law firm of McDonald and Tighe when something drove him to enlist in 1916. Perhaps it was friendly peer pressure; he joined up at the same time as three other former students. He had a reputation for good humour, and was reported to have many friends and practically no enemies.

Whatever his motivation for enlisting, when he finally arrived in France, he wasn't there long before being killed on 8 September, 1918, just two months before the end of the war.

GORDON STANLEY FIFE, the first full-time lecturer in the Department of History, was also among the first to go overseas and among the first of the U of A alumni to die.

He arrived from Ontario with siblings and parents, but before long left again, thanks to a Rhodes Scholarship (only the second awarded in Alberta) for study at Oxford in England. Upon his return to the province, he was made a lecturer in history at the University. While he had been away, his brother, another distinguished scholar, had chosen

engineering for a field of study. Later, a second brother became a



physician. In this very professional family, his performance was essentially par for the course.

It wasn't long after the war began that his patriotism roused him to action. To quote from his obituary, "On the outbreak of a war where Freedom was at stake, he felt that his place was with the troops, upholding the principles which he had for some time expounded. The man who will act in accordance with his exhortations is the man of value to any country, and I feel that not only have his relatives and

friends suffered a loss in his death, but the University, and the province as a whole, has lost the services of a man who might have played a virile part in their upbuilding." For many years, a scholarship endowed in his name was offered by the Department of History, a gift spontaneously offered by his colleague, and no doubt, friend, Assistant Professor AL Burt.

Stan was killed 2 June, 1916 in the battle for Sanctuary Wood in Belgium. He lies buried in Maple Copse cemetery.

Not only students died in the Great War; professors and instructors, too, joined in the ill-fated fight. HEBER MOSHIER, professor of physiology, enlisted to serve in the Canadian Medical Army Corps and bring his expertise to the war-torn European continent. Though intimidating in his photograph, Dr Moshier was well-known, respected and liked by his students and, subsequently, the medics under his command of the XI Field Ambulance.

When it was suggested he would work at hospitals in England, he refused, stating that he felt a responsibility to the "fathers

and mothers of the boys in the ambulance corps" who had entrusted their sons to his care. When he was killed, there was general feeling of sadness at his passing. "Reg [Lister, a student at the U of A] speaks of the great sorrow felt by all the men of the unit who feel that not only have they lost a most efficient OC [commanding officer] but also a wise counsellor and devoted friend."

He spent a significant amount of time in Europe during the war, practicing medicine in 1916 in Belgium, on the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, Lens and



Paschendaele. At the time of his death, his unit had returned to Vimy Ridge, where a chance bit of metal took his life. Moshier's death might be the best documented of all the men from the U of A who were killed. According to numerous reports, Col Moshier was leaving Headquarters, 29 August, 1918, and had just gotten into his car when a shell fragment pierced the roof and struck him on the head, killing him instantly.

He was buried with full military honours, in the same cemetery as one of his students, John Hammond.



Claude Ritson was among the first graduates from the U of A, earning a BSc in Applied Science in 1914. According to the Graduation Edition of the Gateway, "Ritz" as he was known, arrived in Alberta in 1899. His family, according to next of kin records, settled in Lacombe.

In his academic career, he managed to distinguish himself not only in the classroom (where, apparently, in those days the scientists were a "rumpus-loving bunch") but also on the field, as the quarterback for the rugby team. 1914 was a seminal year for this team, as they won the provincial championships

by handily beating the Eskimos.

By the next year he, along with many of his teammates, was playing a far more dangerous game in Europe. This well-rounded man of 28 distinguished himself in the sciences, in sports, and also apparently in literature, acting as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Literary Society in his final year.

What such a man might have done is hard to say. He was passed away on 28 April, 1917, and is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial. He has no known grave.



Though originally from Ireland, SAM HOSFORD was a resident in Edmonton before he came to the U of A. As a "native" Edmontonian, it probably seemed logical to attend the local university. He began his studies when the school was three years young, armed with the only first-year scholarship in arts.

He continued on the same auspicious track thereafter and was

involved with numerous university organizations. He was president of the Literary Society, and the English Club, which was not surprising given his course of study was English, and spent time as the editor of the *Gateway*. When the time came for convocation in 1915, Sam graduated with first-class honours in English, and was awarded the Alexander Cameron Rutherford Gold Medal.

Like many people who excel at academics, Sam wasn't eager to leave the university community. He started working at the Department of Extension in his last year of school and easily secured a job upon graduation as the Office Secretary where his duties led him to be a strong advocate for Debate and Public Speaking.

All the while, however, Sam was

trying his best to get overseas and fight in the war that had begun in his third year. According to his obituary in *Weekly News Letter* of the Soldiers' Comforts Club, "He tried hard to get away, but the examining board would not give the necessary consent." Finally able to persuade them to let him go, he ran into exactly the same problem in England.

Nevertheless, "seemingly if a man is determined to get to France, he can find a way." Not long after he arrived on the continent, he was killed on 1 September, 1918, just over two months before the end of the war.

As his obituary concluded, "Again the university mourns the loss of a son who had fair to take a worthy part in the educational life of the Province."

EMERY JAMES VAN PETTEN looks like he could be a little bit of trouble, in the most entertaining sense of the word.

It's not clear where he came from originally, but his family came from the US to homestead near Canrose. Although he certainly wasn't as academically bright as some of the other men remembered here (the university calendar used to list everyone's standing in every class they took), he was well known and respected for his prowess on the sports field. He won great acclaim for his abilities in boxing, wrestling, and football while at the U of A. His obituary gives a further ringing endorsement of his character: "He was a man of marked personality, self-reliant, an independent thinker and exceptionally strong physically."

When he graduated "in khaki" (a reference to the Khaki University established at the U of A during the war) in 1916, he distinguished himself in training at Sarcee Camp in Calgary before being sent overseas and assigned to the 49th Battalion (now the Loyal Edmonton Regiment). In the summer of 1917, he was wounded, but a fellow U of A student reported he was on the

mend. "I spent half an afternoon on the busses and in the tubes [in London] and must have travelled some miles trying to find Van Petten at one of the General Hospitals. ... I found him at last



looking as fit as a fiddle. I expected to see him as a sick patient, but he was up and prancing around as though he was on the top floor of Athabasca Hall."

Sadly, that fall, during the futile battle for Passchendaele, notorious for the mud so deep that men who fell into it drowned, he was wounded. He died on 30 October, 1917. His body was lost during subsequent fighting, and he has no known grave.



JOHN DONALD MCPHERSON was a born and bred Albertan residing on a farm near Spruce Grove. McPherson came from an established Alberta family; his father represented Stony Plain in the legislature for eight years, and at the time of his son's death, he was Sheriff of Red Deer.

Given his farm background, it comes as no surprise he chose agriculture as his course of study when he began his post-secondary work. He was a member of the first class at the School of Agriculture in Vermilion in 1913, and also first member of the College of Agriculture at the University. While he completed his course in

Vermilion only one year into his studies, the war took him away from the University in the spring of 1916.

In his obituary, written by Dean Howes, it's clear that the class of twelve aspiring agriculturalists was a close-knit community. "As he was a member of my first class at Vermilion and my first class in the University, the news of his death caused a particular feeling of loss, even in these days when so many are taken away."

The young man "of quiet manner and kindly disposition" died on the first day of the Canadian attack on Passchendaele, 26 October, 1917.

These are the stories of eight men who died in the First World War. They are eight faces of the eight million men and women who died fighting for their countries. Every one of those faces had a story, a home, a mother, and people who loved them; if ever there was a reason to remember, that simple fact is it. Lest We Forget.

Words by Annemarie Bruseker
Photos from the Provincial Archives



SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Debbie Davies

The Sidetrack Café
14–16 November at 9:30pm

Debbie Davies has a strong musical lineage stemming from her father who played with Ray Charles and arranged songs for Frank Sinatra.

Touring and playing almost 200 dates a year is normal for the outgoing Davies. Despite touring most of the year, Davies has pumped out eight albums in the last ten years and done a slew of collaborations in addition to her own records.

During her shows, she typically sticks to her own music, which has a modern blues sound, but sometimes needs to kick back and play the classics. "Sometimes I just want to kick ass," Davies says, and the classic stuff lets her do just that.

Veda Hille

The Rev Cabaret
Thursday, 14 November at 8pm

Veda Hille's music has been called both creepy and compelling, which is a good thing. Some of Hille's work could be described as adult fairy tales.

From Vancouver, Hille describes her upbringing as relatively balanced with two parents and two siblings. She forced her parents into letting her play piano at age six, and the experience of playing eventually lead to an interest in jazz and folk. After completing college she felt the call of music.

Now seven discs later she's built a reputation for being Canada's up-and-coming versatile folk songstress. Despite the fact that she might seem moderately out of place at the Rev, Veda Hille is still more than worth checking out.



FILE PHOTO: COLVIN/LEWELLYN/THOMAS

Don't miss Veda Hille at the Rev Thursday.

David Wilcox

Red's
Saturday, 16 November at 7pm

Canadian legend David Wilcox makes his way to t-town this weekend. Wilcox has an illustrious solo career which stretches back over 25 years. His brand of old-timey rock 'n' roll can reach both the young and the old. He shouldn't be confused with the folk-centric similarly named David Wilcox from the United States, however.

He still hasn't explained what his song "Do the Bearcat" means although he says it's for both "animal lovers" and "party animals."

Blue Rodeo

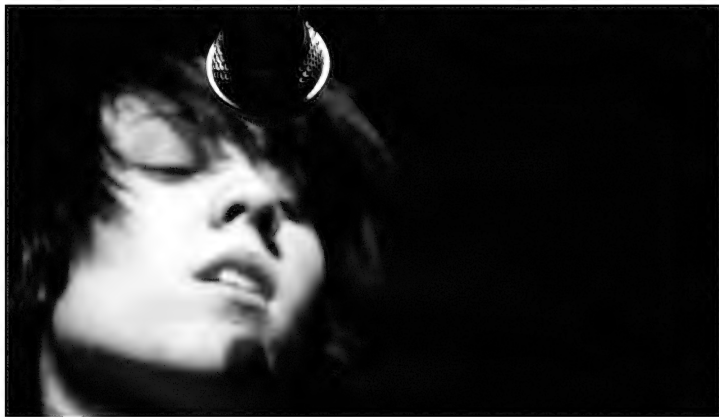
The Jubilee Auditorium
18–19 November at 8pm

Alberta's favourites and mainstays at the Edmonton Folk Music Festival, Blue Rodeo is returning to town to play two shows.

Classified as alt-country, Blue Rodeo is struck by some of the negatives of having that moniker. Some people won't listen to music labeled as country anyway and they're missing out.

This might be the last time you see Blue Rodeo in Alberta for awhile, since Bob Egan released his solo album and the group is touring a lot in the U.S. Check 'em out before it's too late.

DANIEL KASZOR
Circulation Manager



KATE ROSSITER

TEGAN SNUGGLES UP TO THE MICROPHONE The two Canadian darlings, Tegan and Sara, belted out some tunes at the Horowitz last weekend.

Three Seasons is 'cinematic poetry'

Three Seasons

Education Building, Room 129
Friday, 15 November at 7:30pm

JEAN CHIA

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Dadasheb Phalke, the father of Indian cinema, noted his entry into Indian cinema as the very day he watched *The Life of Christ* (USA, 1906) unfold before his eyes. At that moment, he realized the tremendous potential of cinematic art in bringing Indian divinities to the screen. Three years later, Phalke made the first Indian feature film based on the Indian epic, *Ramayana*.

There is little doubt that cinema, as a visual medium of analysis, holds very powerful representations of meaning. Of interest here is world cinema, which lies geographically outside Hollywood and adapts a different aesthetic mode of filmmaking. In the emergence of world cinema on the Asian, African and Latin American continents, films of this genre cannot be identified collectively as "non-Western" simply because filmmakers have been exposed to and often trained in the countries of their Western

counterparts.

Sorting through this intriguing diversity in aesthetics, culture and ideological worldview, the outstanding filmmaker of world cinema is identified by his or her success in revealing the multi-layers of culture with its historical formations and socio-cultural changes.

The fascination of the foreign has an intriguing allure. The South East Asian Student's Association (SEASA) on campus is a group of students from Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei and the Philippines. The group is trying to share its body of diverse landscapes and cultures with the greater Edmonton community.

A series of film screenings features diverse categories ranging from art cinemas and international co-productions to entertainment cinemas have been planned to extend the warmth and hospitality of the region through the imagery of film. Three Seasons is its inaugurating film and is screening this Friday.

Hailed as a cinematic love poem to Vietnam, *Three Seasons* was well received in its first public screening at the 1999 Sundance Film Festival where it was awarded the Sundance triple-crown

award for Grand Jury Prize, Audience Award and Best Cinematography.

A young girl is hired by a reclusive master to cut fresh lotus flowers, a young boy wanders the streets of Saigon with a case full of trinkets, a trishaw driver remains captivated by a prostitute, and an American GI returns to the streets of the city looking for his daughter. Through the use of these four narratives, *Three Seasons* draws out the binary tension of the urban and the rural, the modern and the ancient, wealth and poverty.

American Vietnamese director Tony Bu's arduous painting of each character in their distinct landscape reflects not only the influence of Asian cinema but also a tender ambivalent longing for "the old country." We see use of representative space, and symbols of changing social and cultural meanings in an unashamedly sentimental movie held together by unforgettable visual imagery.

The use of art imagery in film leads to a greater understanding of cross-cultural symbolic representation. In *Three Seasons*, it is justified in its excellent portrayal of the universality of human experience. It is filled with such sympathetic love and emotive portrayal of life that it serves as a very moving work of cinematic poetry.

Eminem great when he plays himself

8 Mile

Directed by Curtis Hanson
Starring Eminem, Kim Basinger, Brittany Murphy
Now playing

NICHOLAS TAM

Arts & Entertainment Writer

It is probably common knowledge that "music" stars (and I use that term loosely) are best kept a safe distance from Hollywood, lest there be yet another fabricated semi-autobiographical ego-feeding vanity project in the works, with all the usual rags-to-riches trappings mingling with a lot of gratuitous booty-shaking.

That said, common knowledge took a holiday while Curtis Hanson filmed *8 Mile*, which could have been an Eminem vanity project in the hands of a lesser director, but instead manages to succeed as an arduous cliché-slogger more than anything. The result is a movie that is still accessible to a crowd only seeing it because it stars Eminem, but may also entertain the likes of, for example, this reviewer, whose knowledge of the guy is limited to something about a slim or shady sort of character.

The largely situationist (read, not plot-heavy) *8 Mile* follows Jimmy Smith, Jr. (Eminem), a white boy in Detroit's black neighbourhoods who goes by the moniker "Bunny Rabbit." The focal storyline begins with Rabbit's performance in a rapping competition in which he freezes up and is booed off stage, and leads up to a final climax during which he very predictably triumphs in the same sort of event. Plot is not the film's strength; it instead excels as a subliminal socio-economic analysis of lower-class America's hip hop culture.

But first: can Eminem act?

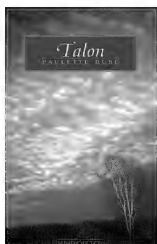
The answer would be a resounding yes, but only in the context of *8 Mile*, where Eminem is hardly wearing a different hat—or hoodie, as the case may be—but instead just extending the acting technique with which he is already familiar. This can be observed in the very first scene of the film, when Rabbit is practicing his finger-shaking moves in front of a mirror, one of many suggestions in the film that rapping is all a big charade. However, Eminem deserves credit for the moments when his performance truly shines; ironically enough, these are the same moments when Rabbit just shuts up, and lets the silent fire in his brooding eyes speak for him.

The film itself is a brutal and honest expose of its subject. Filmed entirely on location, *8 Mile* is a grimy movie where everything is bleak and decrepit. The dialogue is natural and uncouth, and requires little suspension of disbelief; the movie is viscerally shot with an air of ultra-realism.

As far as content goes, *8 Mile* wisely stays in the rags and never makes it to the riches. Obvious issues that a lesser film would bash to death, such as Rabbit being a white boy in black territory, are shunted to subtext. Class conflict is portrayed subtly, as rap is shown to be the voice of the streets, where the poor all want a piece of the millions that middle-class youth is willing to throw at them for slinging rhymed insults over a beat. When the big climax of the film revolves around who is the best at cussing out the guy beside him, one sees that hip hop is not to be misconstrued as anything more than that—the dirty talk of Motown's modern equivalent of industrial London's cockney peasantry, which somehow possesses inexplicable commercial appeal.

8 Mile pulls off a remarkable feat: it resonates with both those who adore its subject and those who despise it with a passion. It is most certainly not to be discarded just because of its star.

Talon warms like a prose quilt



Talon
by Pualetta Dubé
NeWest Press
228 pages

PHILIP A. JAGGER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It's November and the chill of winter has set in. Keep yourself warm in a quilt of words with Talon, Pualetta Dubé's inaugural journey into the world of fiction.

Talon arranges prose, French folk song, anthropology and magic, sewn deftly together with the seams of poetry; a combination of French-Albertan folk art fused with non-traditional elements of storytelling, it's the wine of catchiness laced with the dark rum of voodoo.

The river of prose flowing into the dark well of poetry is natural as poetry is what normally defines Pualetta Dubé's writing. As she explains, "A trained poet never loses that desire for fluidity. I hear rhythm and cadence in everyday speech, and intonation. Idiomatic expressions are fertile ground for fiction and they parlay so easily into prose."

This process balances well with the narrative of the story—a family history. The story is woven with references and portions of the red book

which belongs to Ruby Calliou Morin, a faith healer who passes the book on to her son and so on down the family tree. This is the thread that spins the patches of prose and poetry together beautifully. The book jumps from standard prose to anthropology interviews back to poetry. Time, place, and character switch back and forth almost like magic. But this approach may confuse or lose readers, as the book shifts from French to English.

It's a book of the magic/realism vein, except this magic isn't from exotic locales; it's tapped from Canadian roots. It maps and finds parts of Franco-Albertan life usually unexplored and unknown.

Magic is the central element of the book. It speaks of the gift of healing and faith: the ability to heal with a thought, touch, or curse. "Magic is not thinking that something can happen, but knowing that it will," says Dubé.

The price of magic, however, is the price of birth. The book portrays a harsh Albertan family life. Talon weaves around this dark fabric solidly with a keen approach to the balance of words.

"The characters speak as Franco-Albertans speak, as I speak. It is a dialect as true as I can summon from real life," notes Dubé.

But balanced with magic and folklore is Catholicism. It presses down upon the characters in the book. This is not a pretty picture; it shows the gruffness and harsh reality of French life with an odd sense of beauty. It demands the question: what prompted Dubé to write Talon?

"The voices in my head," she posits. "Plus, I wanted to capture and preserve a slice of Franco-Albertan culture that I don't believe has ever been done before in this format."

For those seeking something that combines prose, like hearing a recorder in someone's kitchen, and poetry, stark and beautiful, then read Talon. It may heal you and set your bones.

Eastern Sounds takes its audience on a trip around the world

World at the Winspear

Eastern Sounds
with SAFA, Khac Chi, and Silk Road
Friday, 8 November, at 8pm

FRASER PORTER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Friday night, the stage at the Winspear Centre was backlit with blood red and icy blue flood lights for a performance that unified three distinct sounds from around the world.

The audience was plunged into pitch black during the performances immersing them in the music and ambience. When the band SAFA came on and played their traditional Persian music, the audience was transported away to the colourful markets of Persia.

The evening was unified by the cultural diversity of each of the bands.

Of all the bands, SAFA produced a sound most foreign to the audience. Eastern bands are known to sound "weird" to the western ear because of the amount of dissonance within the tunes; yet SAFA attracted the most attention. They grabbed listeners through their use of rhythm, incorporating the use of drums, a reed-less clarinet, and the tar (a traditional Iranian instrument). Their performance received a well-deserved standing ovation.

Khac Chi, a duo from Vietnam, played ballads on their sylephone-like instruments made of bamboo and the audience joined them in Vietnam, wallowing in the immense and lush greenery. They managed to capture the audience with a mixture of humour

and a variety of different instruments. One was a *dan bau*, a single-string traditional Vietnamese zither instrument that the group got funding from the Canadian Council for the Arts to retrieve from Vietnam. Filled with cultural references, their performance was as informative as it was entertaining. Through the duration of their set, the pair of performers used approximately 20 instruments, all traditionally Vietnamese.

June-nominated Silk Road was the last band to take the stage. When their traditionally-trained Chinese opera singer was chanting, some listeners were moved to tears by the magnitude of her voice. The audience laughed with her when she sang about Beijing and its market places: the smells and sounds—a remembrance song.

Distinguished by their multicultural makeup, the five-person band consists of three Chinese and two Canadian members. They blend Asian, jazz, Latin and Celtic music with Western technique. The result is a blend of Chinese and Western music that, when played, sounds like a cultural experience in and of itself. Their performance was strong, although compared to the other two bands, they were quite middle-of-the-road.

Though their origins were different, the three performances were masterfully woven together, unified by the cultural individuality of each of the bands, accented by the power of each group's music. Each group established its own musical techniques and played them well, while complementing the individuality of the others. At the end of the performances, all three bands played together, as a sort of cultural-mosaic treat.

An impressive performance by each, and a remarkably beautiful visual experience proved to be a world all its own at the Winspear.

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'Bowie: That's it I Quit,' circa 1973

Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars

Directed by D.A. Pennebaker
Starring David Bowie, Mick Ronson,
Trevor Bolder,
and Woody Woodmansey
Metro Cinema
15-18 November

LEAH COLLINS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Way back in July 1973, David Bowie announced to the glitter babies gathered at the Hammersmith Odeon that he was hanging up his feather boas and platform boots for good. Neither the shiny-happy fans, Bowie's wife, nor the Spiders from Mars had any clue that the glam-era was going to hang out that night, but it just so happened that filmmaker D.A. Pennebaker (*Monterey Pop*, *Down From the Mountain*) was in the audience to capture Ziggy's fall.

Pennebaker's *Ziggy Stardust* was intended to become one of many components of a shock publicity machine. Bowie orchestrated his alien alter-ego's exit to go out like a media asterisk. NME (New Musical Express) even rolled the cover story "Bowie: That's it I Quit" off the presses before the words passed his painted lips. Pennebaker was hired to document the final Ziggy concert under the pretence of sampling the company's new-fangled video technology.

Although Bowie succeeded in generating enough hoopla to have his Ziggy antics become rockstar legend, pseudo-recently idolized in films such as *Velvet Goldmine*, and camp resurced in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, it's taken 30 years for the film to enjoy

a wide theatrical release.

Held back by various issues, most notably the difficulty with the film's sound quality, *Ziggy Stardust* is finally in theatres thanks to that boon to the showbiz-type hucksters: a brand new digitally remastered print in celebration of Ziggy's thirtieth birthday.

Ziggy Stardust is worth the 30-year wait for the sound alone. The Dolby Digital soundtrack was remixed by celebrated Bowie producer Tony Visconti; the result is an audio wham-bum of live material featuring an unleashed "Moogage Daydream" and an emotional rendition of Jacques Brel's "My Death," delightfully finished by an ever-loving audience.

But the cleaned-up visuals seem a waste. Grainy, and lit like a triple-B sci-fi movie, *Ziggy* is a strain to watch. If the performers aren't transformed into burning blurry silhouettes by the garish orange, white, and blue spotlights, the erratic camera

is tracing a mad glitter spiral. This often oddly cuts the performers from the frame and even fails to get a satisfactory shot of Bowie and guitarist Mick Ronson's infamous instrumental ransiness.

But for all the hazy cosmic jive that would make any viewer as light-headed as one of the many swooning Bowie-kits, it's a treat to have a glimpse of a Ziggyfied Bowie in action and to witness the effect of his fake retirement at a time when such a publicity stunt wasn't already clichéd.

Bowie may currently prefer a Gaultier three-piece to a Kansai short-shorts jumpsuit, but in a year that's seen Bowie release a new album (as well as a greatest hits compilation on CD and DVD), embark on two tours, and organize the Meltdown festival, it's clear that he still has something in common with the androgyne, candy-apple mullet: he knows how to get himself noticed.



CANDY-APPLE MULLET Bowie's early "retirement" filmed in *Ziggy Stardust*.

SITE UNSEEN



www.lanfarpwllgwngyl/gogerychwymdrobwyl-lantysiliogogoch.com

ADIZAM ROZIZENHIZART
Entertainment Editor

OK, so before you start soiling yourselves over the insanely long URL above, let me explain something: what you're seeing above is actually the name of a town in North Wales. It's a Welsh name, and for those of you who've forgotten your Welsh already, it means "The church of St Mary in the hollow of white hazel trees near the rapid whirlpool by St Tyllid's of the red cave."

Who cares, right? Like, who really gives a shit about a ridiculously long web address that you probably will struggle typing out anyway? Well, I care. And so do the people of this quaint little town, who heartless jerks.

So what benefits does this website provide to its viewers? Well, aside from being the longest one-word URL on the net, it has a *WAV* of the pronunciation of the town, as well as an e-mail-your-friends feature. And who wouldn't want to get an e-mail from a website with the longest URL on the Internet?

Me, that's who.

CULTURA OBSCURA



Star Trek: The Game

ADAM ROZENHART
Entertainment Editor

I hope you're ready to boldly go where few nerds have gone before. "How," you ask? With a limited edition *Star Trek* board game from Paramount.

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For example: "In the episode 'That Which Survives,' what tool does Mr Scott attempt to use to stop the flow of antimatter to the ship's engines?"

Simple, right? Uh, no—painfully difficult, I'd say. So much so that I'd rather be stabbed in the face than have to answer questions like this, or indeed spend any amount of time playing such a game (incidentally, for Trekkers out there, the correct answer is a magnetic probe).

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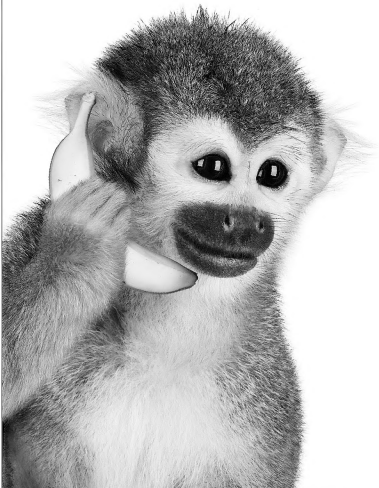
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MISANTHROPIC MOUSE by Dan Ripley



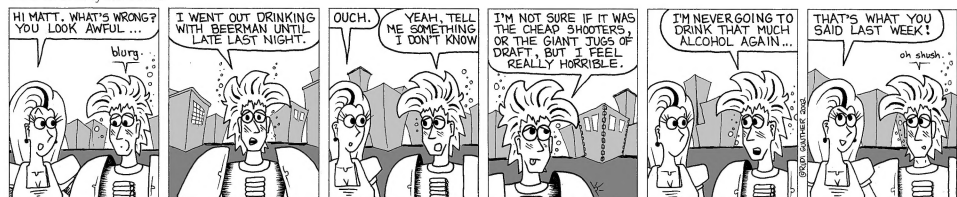
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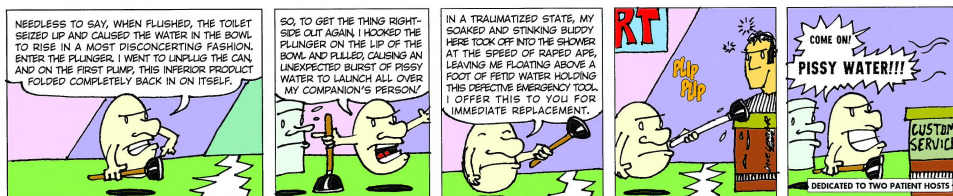
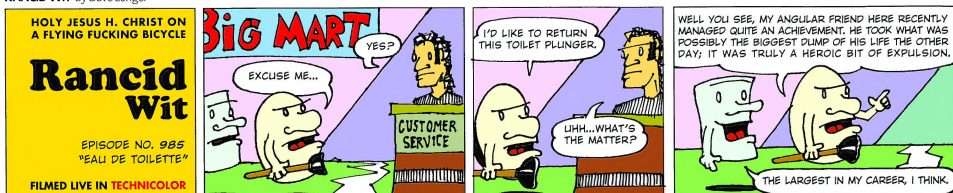
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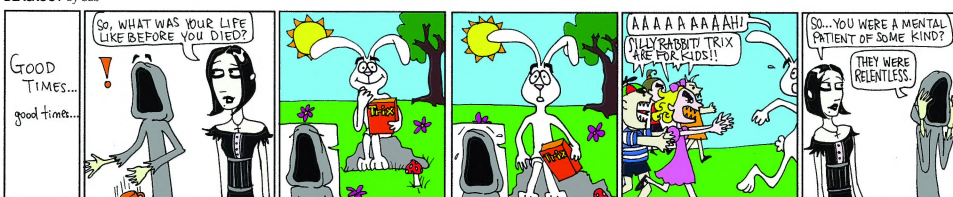
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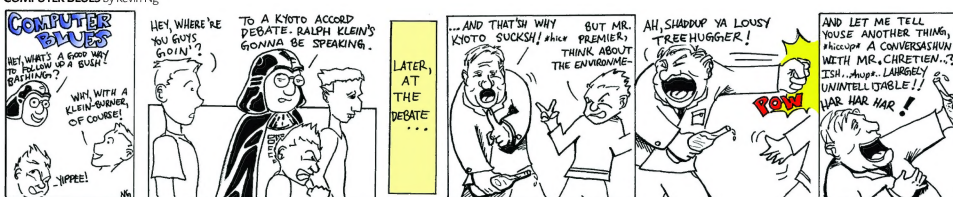
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